

REMOVAL OF *MYCETOCHARA PUNCTICOLLIS* (BLATCHLEY)
FROM THE ALLECULIDAE TO THE
MELANDRYIDAE (COLEOPTERA)

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ABSTRACT

Mycetochara puncticollis (Blatchley) described from Florida is transferred from the family Alleculidae and provisionally assigned to the genus *Hallomenus* Panzer of the family Melandryidae.

Blatchley (1917, p. 276) described *Mycetochara puncticollis* from a single specimen from Dunedin, Florida. The type of this species was examined during the preparation of a review of the North American *Mycetochara* Berthold (formerly *Mycetochara* Latreille) (Campbell, in press). Unfortunately, this specimen is in extremely poor condition, but even a superficial observation reveals that it is not an alleculid.

The specimen is probably a male and is glued upside down on a card point. The antennae, 1 front leg and 1 protarsus, 1 middle leg and the ultimate 2 segments of 1 mesotarsus, and 1 middle leg and 1 metatarsus are missing. Most of the venter is obscured by glue including all details of the mouthparts. Additionally, the prothorax has been poorly reglued to the pterothorax in such a way as to obscure many of the ventral prothoracic characters. The specimen is labeled as follows: TYPE/Dunedin, Fla., W.S.B. Coll. 3-8.1913/ *Mycetochara puncticollis* sp. nov. It is in the Blatchley collection now housed at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.

Unfortunately, the specimen was available for study for only a short time so that I was able to compare it only with specimens in the Canadian National Collection. Based on superficial dorsal structures, it seems similar in most respects to *Hallomenus scapularis* Melsheimer, but has a different color pattern (dark brunneo-piceous dorsally with a large, circular, clearly defined, rufo-testaceous spot at humeral angle of each elytron).

As I am certain the species is not an alleculid, I have tentatively reassigned it to the genus *Hallomenus* Panzer. As most of the diagnostic characters for this genus are on structures that are missing (legs and antennae) or are obscured (mouthparts and venter of body), this assignment is questionable and the specimen should be closely re-examined whenever the species of the family Melandryidae or the genus *Hallomenus* are revised.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCES

- BLATCHLEY, W. S. 1917. On some new or noteworthy Coleoptera from the west coast of Florida.—III. Can. Ent. 49:272-279.
CAMPBELL, J. M. In press. A review of the North American species of *Mycetochara* Berthold (Coleoptera: Alleculidae). Can. Ent.

